RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 EXPEDITED PROCEDURE GROUP 1793 PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of Docket No: Q94312 Ken-ichiro HARA, et al. Group Art Unit: 1793 Appln. No.: 10/574,839 Examiner: Tima Michele MCGUTHRY BANKS Confirmation No.: 5042 Filed: November 2, 2006 METHOD FOR PRODUCING STEEL INGOT For: RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 **MAIL STOP AF** Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 Sir: Responsive to the outstanding Action of March 25, 2009, please consider the following Applicants' response. **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

REMARKS......2